

## BACKGROUND

**P**aul was nearing the end of his life when he wrote this epistle. From the account in Acts, we can match what Paul refers to as *his chains* as being found in Acts 28. This was when he was under house arrest in Rome, awaiting his day in Caesar's court. Unable to visit, Paul decided to write. Since scholars have discovered ancient Manuscripts dating back to the first century that are identical to *Paul's epistle to the Ephesians* with the words *in Ephesus* omitted, there is a strong case made by many scholars that this epistle was probably a circular epistle sent to several churches in which the particular church recipients would have been inserted by the messenger.

## AUTHORSHIP

**T**his epistle is identified as being written by Paul the apostle. There is no credible argument against this plain identification. The earliest records from church history confirm that they believed that Paul was the author of this epistle.



*The Seven Churches of Asia Minor, showing the relationship of Ephesus to the other six.*